

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/018,178	YAMAZAKI, MASAKI
	Examiner Carlos Lugo	Art Unit 3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to telephone interview with the applicant's representative on September 24, 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-10 and 27-30.
3. The drawings filed on 04 September 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to an interview on September 24, 2004 with the applicant's representative.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an examiner's amendment, which places this application in condition for allowance. During a telephone conversation conducted on September 24, 2004 and on September 27, 2004, Mr. Herbert Ruschmann requested an extension of time for 3 MONTH (S) and authorized the Director to charge Deposit Account No. 10-1250 the required fee of \$950.00 for this extension and authorized the following examiner's amendment. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
 - Claims 1-5,11 and 13-26 are cancelled.
 - Claim 29 Line 1, change "claims 6 through 10" to -claims 6 through 9- (as suggested by the applicant).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. **Claims 6-10 and 27-30 are allowed.**

Reasons For Allowance

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 6,7 and 27 are allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not teach or render obvious the combination set forth, including that that the pair of tier faces are spaced when the inclined surfaces are in contact (claim 6); that the outer circumference of the washers includes a graduation to have a perception of the interval size between the tier faces (claim 7); and that the assembly further includes a latching ring having a tongue piece (claim 27).

Regarding claim 6, JP '612, as modified by McKinlay '449, fails to disclose that the pair of tier faces are spaced when the inclined surfaces are in contact; JP '612, as modified by McKinlay '449, discloses that the pair of tier faces are in contact when the inclined surfaces are in contact.

As to claim 7, Walton teaches that is known in the art to have a threaded fastener assembly comprising marks (28 and 40) to provide visual indication; however, the marks are to provide a visual indication of the load suministrated, not to have a perception of the interval size between the tier faces.

As to claim 27, JP '612, as modified by McKinlay '449 fails to disclose that the assembly further includes a latching ring having a tongue piece.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lugo whose telephone number is 703-305-9747. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 703-308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.

C. L.

Carlos Lugo
AU 3677

September 27, 2004.



DANIEL P. STODOLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600